(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supernova explosion in the Galaxy

*229. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent celestial phenomenon of Suponerva explosion in the galaxy;

(b) whether any studies have been carried out on this Supernova; if so, what information has been gathered so far from this happening; and

(c) whether the Department of Space has collaborated with international astronomers or agencies to receive data about the Supernova and the Blackhole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recent supernova detected by astronomers is not within our galaxy but is in the nearby extra galactic cloud known as Large Magellanic cloud. Studies are being carried out about this supernova at the Vainu Bappu Observatory at Kavalur. The information gathered so far is about changes of brightness and spectra of light from the supernova.

(c) Scientific information about this is being freely exchanged by Indian Institute of Astrophysics with international astronomers and agencies through the International Astronomical Union.

Cigarette factories closed due to increased levies

*231. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of factories manufacturing cigarettes have recently been closed down due to the increased levy on the cigarettes, throwing a large number of workers out of their jobs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to remove the sufferings of the unemployed workers of these cigarette factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Excise dut yon cigarettes was increased in this year's budget. Simultaneously the basis of the Levy was changed from printed retail prices to the length of the cigarettes. To avoid any dislocation in the production and clearance of cigarettes some of the procedural requirements relating to the revised scheme of levy were temporarily relaxed at the time of announcement of the budget and also thereafter, on the basis of representations from the cigarette industry received after the budget. The cigarette manufacturers had temporarily suspended their clearance immediately after the budget to adjust to the new scheme of levy. The procedural relaxations normalised clearance of cigarettes.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

शिक्षित बेरोजगारों को ऋण

*232. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जो व्यक्ति बेरोजगार हैं या बेरोजगार स्नातक हैं, उन्हें बैंकों द्वारा ऋण दिया जा रहा है ;

(ख) क्या इस प्रकार दिये जा रहे ऋणों का विज्ञापनों द्वारा प्रचार करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और